

Cedar Breaks National Monument Administrative Office 2390 West Hwy 56, St. 11 Cedar City, Utah 84720

435 586-9451 phone 435 586-3813 fax

Cedar Breaks News Release

For Use Beginning 05/23/13

Contact: Daphne Sewing, 435-586-9451, x 4425

Cedar Breaks Park Road Opens May 23, Visitor Facilities Open and Ranger Programs Begin on June 7



Cedar Breaks National Monument, Utah. Highway 148, the scenic park road through Cedar Breaks National Monument, will be open to vehicular traffic beginning Thursday, May 23. Visitor facilities are scheduled to open Friday, June 7. Daily ranger programs will be offered and continue throughout the summer.

Until visitor facilities are open, there will be a limited presence of park staff to provide information and answer visitor questions, as well as to monitor park resources and visitor safety. Although the snow is melting rapidly, visitors should be aware and cautious of icy and snowy conditions when walking at the scenic overlooks. Trails are snow covered or very muddy, so hikers should exercise caution as well.

"We are looking forward to another cool and colorful summer season in the high country of Cedar Breaks," said Superintendent Paul Roelandt. "We have put together an exciting program of special events, ranger walks and talks of interest to all ages, and look forward to hosting visitors from across the globe."

Beginning Friday, June 7, the Visitor Center will be open from 9 AM to 6 PM daily, and ranger programs will be offered throughout the day. The Point Supreme Campground will open on June 14. The park entrance fee is \$4.00 per person aged 16 or older and can be paid at the fee station as you enter the Visitor Center/Point Supreme Overlook area. The Cedar Breaks Annual Pass, Interagency Annual Pass and Senior Pass may be purchased at the Fee Station. These passes are also available for purchase at the park's administrative office in Cedar City and at the Iron County Visitor Center, 581 North Main, Cedar City.

Local residents who come to the park frequently are encouraged to consider purchasing the Cedar Breaks Annual Pass. "It's a terrific bargain at \$20," said Trevor Lopez, Fee Program Lead. "The pass

is good for one year from the month of purchase and allows you and up to three others per visit to enjoy the park."

Throughout the summer, Cedar Breaks will conduct a number of special activities and events. Pick any Saturday night in July and August and join us for a Star Party event that includes a laser-powered constellation tour and telescope viewing. On July 5, 6 and 7, Cedar Breaks will be hosting a "Bio Blast - Bats, Birds, and Bugs," which includes many fun and educational activities and provides opportunities for visitors to help collect survey information about highlighted species. The eighth annual "Wildflower Festival" will be held this year from July 6-21. Special events include twice daily guided wildflower walks, special programs, and weekend educational activities. Download our wildflower app, "Wildflowers of Cedar Breaks," on your iOS or Android device before you come and learn all about the huge variety of colorful wildflowers that are on display.

On August 22 through 25, come celebrate the Monument's eightieth anniversary and enjoy history-focused events and activities during our "Stories of the Past Festival." On September 28 and 29, take a drive up to 10,000 feet and experience how the incredible fall colors begin to paint the landscape during our Fall Nature Festival. Saturday, September 28, is National Public Lands Day and a fee free day. Cedar Breaks will host a volunteer service project for those who want to lend a helping hand as well as enjoy a series of educational activities planned throughout the weekend.

As is the case every year when Cedar Breaks opens, weight restrictions will be in place prohibiting vehicles over 26,000 gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) from using the road through the park. "The restrictions are in place because of the damage heavy vehicles cause to the road," stated Matthew Harrison, Chief Ranger.

Questions regarding the status of the Cedar Breaks Scenic Drive and park activities may be directed to the park's headquarters office in Cedar City at (435) 586-9451. Once the park facilities open, visitors can call the park's Visitor Center directly at 435-586-0787 to inquire about park activities and recreational opportunities or check the Cedar Breaks website at www.nps.gov/cebr.

Visitors can also stay current with park happenings by following the park Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cedarbreaksnationalmonument.

-NPS-

Prepared 05/23/13